



City of Clifton
Department of Health
900 Clifton Ave.
Clifton, NJ 07013



Clifton Health Department
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

John E. Biegel, III
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Please note that information highlighted in yellow reflects new and updated information.

Updated: December 24, 2021 12:30pm

(Clifton) - The Clifton Health Department, in consultation with the City Manager, Mayor and Council, understands that residents are concerned about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The City of Clifton has had **339* NEW COVID-19 cases since last Friday, 12/17**, bringing the total COVID-19 case count to **14,593. Upon further investigation, 16 cases were found to be out of jurisdiction and transferred out; these cases have been removed from the overall case count.**

***IMPORTANT NOTE ON NUMBERS AND SPREADSHEET ATTACHMENTS:**

Due to an unprecedented number of COVID-19 cases being reported to the New Jersey Department of Health, these numbers are not indicative of the actual count of cases in the City of Clifton. This number also does not account for positive COVID-19 home tests. As a result, we are unable to continue to provide the case information, age/gender breakdown, and bar graph spreadsheets. Please know that this is information the Health Department was devoted to providing the community with since day 1, but unfortunately, these circumstances are beyond our control and make it difficult to continue doing so. We will continue to provide the community with this press release update, but remember that these numbers are an underrepresentation of the actual count of cases.

With a heavy heart, we are announcing 1 additional COVID-19-related death that took place this past week involving a 77-year old female. Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of this community member and to the loved ones of every community member who has lost their life to this virus. The City of Clifton now has a total of 300 deaths.

Of these deaths, 45 have involved residents at the Daughters of Miriam Nursing Home. Please be advised that this number is reflective of the deaths identified in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System.

The NJ Department of Health and Vault Medical Services have partnered to offer a free, at-home COVID-19 saliva test kit that is available to every New Jersey resident who thinks they need a test, even if they do not have symptoms.

To order a free test kit, visit learn.vaulthealth.com/nj



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The kit will be shipped through UPS with next-day delivery. Once received, you will connect over Zoom with a Vault healthcare professional who will walk you through the test and answer your questions. When complete, the test can be sent back in a prepaid package via UPS next-day shipping. You will receive your test results 24 to 48 hours after your sample arrives at the lab.

You will not be charged for the test, and you will not be asked for your credit card information.

The Clifton Health Department would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas! During this holiday season, as there is an unprecedented surge of cases, we urge residents to not let their guard down and to follow CDC and NJ Department of Health guidance for staying healthy and preventing the spread of COVID-19:

- **Celebrate with those who are fully vaccinated, outdoors, and/or in places with good ventilation**
- **Wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces and in high-risk settings regardless of vaccination status**
- **Stay home and do not host a gathering if you feel sick**
- **If you have COVID-19 symptoms or are a close contact, get tested: covid19.nj.gov/testing**
- **Even if you aren't sick, get tested before visiting people outside of your household as an added precaution**
- **Delay travel until fully vaccinated**
- **Make hand sanitizer available for guests**
- **Remind guests to wash their hands before serving or eating food. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
- **Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands so guests do not share a towel**
- **Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible**

The City of Clifton has administered the following COVID-19 vaccine doses between January, 6, 2021 and December 23, 2021:

<u>1st doses</u>	<u>8,186</u>
<u>2nd doses</u>	<u>7,145</u>
<u>3rd doses</u>	<u>64</u>



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Booster doses	1,363
Total number of doses	16,758

To schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 booster or for more information, please call the Health Department's COVID-19 hotline at 973-470-2039.

As a reminder to residents, if you are being tested, remain home while awaiting your results, whether or not you're showing symptoms, to avoid potentially infecting other people.

The number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing over the last few weeks. The Clifton Health Department would like to remind the community to be vigilant. Please remember to take the following precautions, especially as we continue to head into the holiday season:

- **Get vaccinated:** Everyone 5 years or older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in New Jersey and is encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing you from getting sick. They are one of the most important tools to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Wear a mask** - Face masks are recommended for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in indoor public spaces.
- **Practice social distancing:** The CDC recommends unvaccinated people stay at least 6 feet away from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- **Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated based on CDC guidance:** For more information, refer to the [CDC's guidance for domestic travel](#).
- **Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces if you are not vaccinated:** Being in crowds like restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters puts you at higher risk for COVID-19. Avoid indoor spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces:** For more, see the [CDC's guidelines](#) on how to properly clean and disinfect.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Get tested:** Testing is available to everyone in New Jersey. It's especially important to get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms after being exposed, if you have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, if you were recently in



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For a list of most Governor Murphy's current and past executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, please refer to this link: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/>

Residents can find helpful resources that provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic here: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/assistance-and-benefits/what-types-of-benefits-or-assistance-are-available-to-me-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

For a list of locations near you that are offering COVID-19 testing, please refer to this link for the most up-to-date information: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

If you receive a call from the Clifton Health Department for case follow-up, there are specific questions we would ask. We would **never** ask for your social security number, so if you receive a call from anyone claiming to be a representative of the Clifton Health Department who asks for your social security number, please hang up immediately and report it to the Police Department at 973-470-5911.

The CDC has expanded its list of COVID-19 symptoms to include the following:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Some people who are exposed may show mild symptoms, while others may show severe illness. Remember that symptoms can appear **anywhere from 2-14 days after an exposure.**

For general questions pertaining to COVID-19, please call the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline at 211 or text NJCOVID to 898-211. Please also feel free to visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/> for more information. For mental health-related concerns during COVID-19, call the Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990 or text "talk with us" at 66746. If you wish to get in touch with the Clifton Health Department for general COVID-19 questions, please email Health Educator Layal Helwani at Lhelwani@cliftonnj.org.

The Clifton Health Department is a contractual health agency serving the Township of Little Falls.
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